

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 000016

70  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:LAR

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

AF/C:TBUCHANAN (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:WHMARSH(DRAFT)

PM/SAS:WINSHIP (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:BWMOORE (DRAFT)

S/S - MR. KUCHEL

----- 080515

O P 010033Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 000016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GB

SUBJECT:PRESIDENT BONGO'S REQUEST FOR ARMS

REF: (A) STATE 304661 (NOTAL); (B) PARIS 33955 (NOTAL);

ABIDJAN FOR SCHAUFEL

1. IN ORDER TO SOOTHEINEVITABLE FRENCH SENSITIVITIES  
REGARDING BONGO REQUEST, DEPARTMENT USED OPPORTUNITY OF  
MEETING WITH FRENCH EM0OFF ON DECEMBER 30 TO PROVIDE  
GENERAL OUTLINE OF ACTIVITY TO DATE. PRESENTATION WAS  
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY BONGO WITH REQUEST FOR  
ARMS SUPPLY;

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(B) WE ARE TRYING TO REACT IN POSITIVE SPIRIT, PRIMARILY

AS MEANS OF REASSURING GABON AND OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES  
OF CONTINUED USG SUPPORT VS. SOVIET AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA;

(C) WE ARE ASSEMBLING TEAM OF MILITARY EXPERTS WHO WILL  
BE SENT TO LIBREVILLE IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO CONSULT WITH GOG,  
OBTAIN GOG ASSESSMENT OF ITS NEEDS, AND SUBMIT RECOMMENDA-  
TIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. ROLE IN FULFILLING THOSE

NEEDS;

(D) WHATEVER THAT ROLE MAY BE, WE EXPECT IT WILL BE A  
MODEST ONE. PURPOSE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE.  
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF SUPPLANTING FRANCE AS GABON'S  
PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIER;

(E) WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP GOF INFORMED.

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SIMILAR APPROACH TO APPROPRIATE

FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN LIBREVILLE WOULD BE DESIRABLE. IF  
AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE HAS NOT ALREADY MADE SUCH AN APPROACH,  
AMBASSADOR STEIGMAN IS REQUESTED TO DO SO PRIOR TO DOD  
TEAM ARRIVAL (EXPECTED JANUARY 5).

3. TALKING POINTS ALSO BEING PREPARED ON THIS SUBJECT  
FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE'S MEETINGS WITH JOURNIAC IN  
PARIS. ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ARMS, SUPPLIES, SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE000016  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JSBLIDGETT:LAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750452-0157  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 304661  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESIDENT BONGO'S REQUEST FOR ARMS  
**TAGS:** MASS, GB, FR, (BONGO, ALBERT BERNARD)  
**To:** LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006